

**CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S ALLIANCE
MINUTES OF THE STEERING GROUP MEETING
HELD ON 4 FEBRUARY 2008 AT PCCS**

Present:

Katherine Marsden-Broad	PUEF (Acting Chair)
Charlie Adie	MOTIV8
Siobhan Burns	PCC
Linda Jones	L J Associates
Karina Large	PCC
Barbara O'Sullivan	PCCS
Stella Pratt	SFT
Richard Soutar	Enable Ability
Terri Windsor	Home-Start

Apologies: June Christie, Ken Dobson, Jennifer Parker Davies

1. Katherine Marsden-Broad (KMB) welcomed members and invited them to introduce themselves.

2. **Minutes of the meeting held on 7 January 2008 and Action Points**

The minutes were agreed without amendment.

Barbara O'Sullivan (BOS) explained that, because of problems with the computers at PCCS, she had been unable to progress many of the Action Points.

Page 1: The Terms of Reference had now been added to the website and it was requested that BOS check that it didn't still contain the word 'draft'.

Action: BOS to check Terms of Reference entry on website.

Page 2: A date had yet to be firmed up but it was hoped that the Representation workshop would take place in June and PCN would pay for eight places.

The Feedback form had yet to be produced but would be a handwritten note for attendees to report back to BOS.

Administrative support had been agreed and, in the first instance, would be in the form of a temp pending completion of PCCS' restructuring. There had been a delay in instigating this because of the problems with the computers.

Page 3 All action points had been completed.

3. **Workforce Development Training Initiative**

Karina Large (KL), PCC, said that money was available to the Alliance to be released over three years in order to meet training needs in the voluntary, community and private sectors. The final draft would be circulated in a couple of weeks. A further £3k grant could be available on production of statistics. Discussion followed on how much money would be required to support the training eg admin, childcare, crèche facilities and it was agreed that full cost recovery was vital. As KL would be leaving her post mid March, she asked for a ballpark figure and Charlie Adie (CA) agreed to provide this. KL would notify the Alliance of a link name when this is known.

Action: CA to provide ballpark figure for support to training initiative

Action: KL to provide name of new link

Following a discussion on the setting of targets and who would deliver training it was decided to set up a meeting with Karina so that decisions could be jointly agreed.

Action: BOS to set up meeting with Karina

Linda Jones (LJ) circulated and went over the details of the Proposal for CWD Strategy Plan 2008-11, Development for Portsmouth which was a move towards integrated services with the vcs and statutory training together and precipitated by the new Children's Plan. She was pleased to be able to consult with vcs representatives at today's meeting and looked forward to hearing of any training needs by the end of March. She suspected information sharing was a huge gap in Portsmouth and asked the Alliance to think about simple questions such as what was working and what challenges they faced. CA responded that the Alliance was working but had not received any funding in its twelve months' existence and its members participated in addition to their day jobs and, so, a gap was identified as not having the resources to make the Alliance sustainable. The difference in culture between the large PCC and small vcs individuals was a challenge. LJ

suggested she come back to the April meeting of the Alliance by which time members of the Alliance network will have been contacted for their responses.

Action: BOS to contact Alliance network

Action: BOS to provide LJ with list of who's on the Alliance network

In discussion later in the meeting, CA expressed his dismay that the local authority had brought news of the extra money to the meeting without prior warning and with no information on how it should be spent. It appeared to be open-ended and for the Alliance to decide how to spend it but members felt uncomfortable at the lack of consideration for overheads and thought, perhaps it could claim for BO's time and hire of rooms. There was a need to identify themes for training and who could deliver it. It was agreed that KMB would accompany BOS to meet with Karina.

Action: KMB to accompany BOS to meet with KL

4. Safeguarding Update

Siobhan Burns (SB), PCC, brought news of two new government initiatives:

Allegation Management As a statutory requirement, the local authority had appointed Jacqueline Coonie as its Designated Officer to help support those involved in allegations and she is based in the Civic Offices. A briefing on this development will take place on 25 February at the Dame Judith Professional Centre, details of which will be sent to BOS.

Action: SB to send details to BOS

Vetting/Barring Arrangements ISA was a new organisation set up to run additional checks, through the ILC database, to CRB checks on those working with children and vulnerable adults. These checks would provide "softer intelligence" as a safeguard against a repeat of the Ian Huntley situation and the local authority would subsidise the v&cs in the extra costs. This system would make the process more robust and flag up offenders who offend after a check has been made so making it a more permanent check. These checks would be obligatory and be implemented in October 2008 for new staff and, in the following five years, would cover those staff already employed. Some members of the Alliance were concerned that this would be a further hurdle to taking on staff and volunteers and SB said that she would look for a channel into which the views of the Alliance could be fed.

SB went on to say that there was a need for a representative of the Alliance to sit on the LCSB to ensure sharing of information. In addition, lay membership would be encouraged and training and support would be provided although this could be a long process.

Action: BOS to request a representative from the Alliance

6. Election of Chair

Following lengthy discussion it was agreed to take the issue to the 21 April meeting so that a Chair can be voted in; therefore there would not be a meeting in May which would have been due on Bank Holiday. Meanwhile, Richard Soutar (RS) and KMB would act as joint Vice Chairs. Once a Chair is elected the Alliance would need to produce a Business Plan and a summary of its activities during its first year in existence. Members thanked KMB for chairing the Alliance.

7. Briefing Events - 7 February and 20 May 2008

There were few names on the list for the Youth Support Service Briefing on 7 February so BOS would send details to a wider mailing. Chris Richards would be taking the lead at this event supported by Charlie Adie. It was suggested that the Allegations Workshop be promoted at the Briefing.

Action: BOS to mail details of Briefing event to wider mailing

8. Reports from Representatives

CA reported that there was quite a lot of unallocated money to be bid for in the Early Intervention Fund (formerly Children's Fund) and asked for ideas for its use to be flagged up.

Connexions - there was also a small pot of money to be used by the end of March 2008.

KMB - there was an increase in the Youth Opportunities Grant. KMB also spoke of a 'Tell Us 2' survey being undertaken by schools although there had been a low take up.

9. Any Other Business

Children's Workforce Briefing on 17 March 2008.

SP repeated her request for a flowchart to assist her understanding of the Alliance.

Action: BOS

10. The date of the next meeting was confirmed as 10 March 2008, from 10 am - 12 noon, venue PCCS Conference Room.